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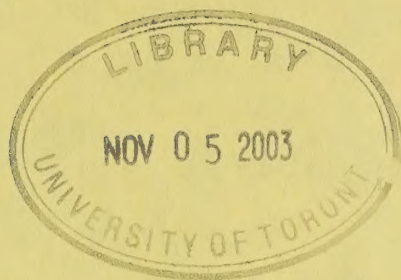
## SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

to

THE PEOPLE OF CANADA

on

THE NEGROS REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (NRDF),  
PHILIPPINES



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*by*  
**DAVID WURFEL**



## I INTRODUCTION

In June 1986, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honorable Joe Clark, announced to the people of Negros Occidental that the Canadian Government would be taking immediate steps to establish a Negros Rehabilitation and Development Fund to help poverty groups overcome the disastrous effects of the province's sugar crisis. This objective was accomplished in September 1986 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the C\$11 million NRDF program by President Corazon Aquino and Ambassador Russell Davidson, on behalf of the Philippine and Canadian governments, respectively.

The objective of the program, as stated in its Plan of Operation, is to foster the self-sufficiency and enhance the decision-making capacity of the rural and urban poor of Negros by providing them with access to land, technology, agricultural inputs, education and other key productive resources. This is to be done by funding projects of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental in the fields of agricultural diversification, micro-enterprise, agro-industry and agro-forestry. Target groups for NRDF assistance are to include landless rural workers, tenant farmers, small farmers, subsistence fishermen and the urban poor.

The Negros Occidental Provincial Government nominated six individuals from the province with strong track records in NGO development work to sit on the NRDF Program Committee. This Committee, which also includes representatives of the Philippine Government and CIDA, makes recommendations on specific project approvals to the Canadian Ambassador. Funds are then sent directly from the Canadian Embassy to the implementing organizations. The work of the NRDF Program Committee is facilitated and supported by a Coordinating Office based in Bacolod City, capital of Negros Occidental. A CIDA Monitor has been placed as one of the staff in the Coordinating Office.

NRDF is off to a fast start. A total of 20 projects have been approved as of early May 1987, entailing CIDA contributions totalling approximately C\$2.7 million. Some 21,600 households are directly benefitting from these projects. This translates into over 80,000 individuals realizing direct benefits and many more benefitting indirectly. Section II of this report provides details on a project-by-project basis.

NRDF is one of the first programs brought in by the new provincial administration of Governor Daniel Lacson, Jr. which is having a major impact on grass-roots socio-economic





development in the province. The April 3 edition of the Visayan Daily Star newspaper, published in Bacolod, has this to say about the program:

"Probably the biggest boost that Negros Occidental has received during the past year was that which came from a friend who reached out with a helping hand immediately when it was needed.

The friend was the government of Canada which through its outreach arm, the Canadian International Development Agency, heeded the appeal of Acting Governor Daniel Lacson Jr. on the urgency of the need for help of the province.

Quickly, and with the minimum of bargaining or fanfare the CIDA stepped in to administer the life-saving transfusion of C\$11 million into the bloodstream of the prostrate economy.

The Canadian assistance poured into the province with a timeliness that spelled the difference between hope and hopelessness, stagnation and progress, even as local bureaucracy struggled with ramifications and red tape."

NRDF will continue operating in Negros until 1990. By that time, its impact will have been felt in every corner of the province. If it continues to function effectively, there is no doubt it will play a major role in the socio-economic transformation of one of the most distressed provinces in the Philippines.

## II APPROVED NRDF PROJECTS

### 1. Project Name and Location:

Star Of Hope; - various poor communities in Bacolod City

### Implementing Organization:

In-Hand Negros, Inc.

### Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$133,333





CIDA Funds Disbursed to Date:

C\$133,333

Beneficiaries:

2,000 urban poor

Description:

In-Hand Negros, Inc. assisted in the organization of community cooperatives in six poor urban communities in the Bacolod City area. Each community was trained in the production of a component of a Philippine Christmas Star decoration, known as the Star of Hope. Individuals were paid according to production. In-Hand Negros, Inc. provided the marketing support necessary and returned 50% of the net profit to the communities involved. The other 50% will be used to start similar projects in other communities.

Progress To Date:

This project was fully completed by December 31, 1986. The 2,000 individuals involved, all of whom were previously unemployed or underemployed, made a good daily wage through the three-month production period. At the end of the period, a net profit of C\$80,000 was made. Of this, C\$40,000 has been turned over to the six producing community organizations for future community based projects. *Remaining?*

2. Project Name and Location:

Toy Production; - various poor communities in Bacolod and Talisay.

Implementing Organization:


In-Hand Negros, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$66,666

CIDA Funds Disbursed to Date:

C\$63,333



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Beneficiaries:

3,900 urban poor

Description:

Using the resources and expertise gained from the "Star of Hope" project, In-hand Negros, Inc. convinced an American toy manufacturer to set up a production system in Negros. A total of nine communities were trained in the production of stuffed toys for the American market. In-Hand Negros, Inc. facilitated all the training, quality control and marketing support services. The people in the community production units were paid according to production and proudly considered themselves as owners of the enterprise.

Progress To Date:

The necessary equipment for toy production has been purchased and full production started in nine communities. The first order has been filled and the buyer was completely satisfied with the quality. The buyer has committed to move his full production requirements to Negros provided quality control and quotas can be met. This project has the potential to create more than 20,000 jobs in Negros.

3. Project Name and Location

Bocana Small Fishermen and Fry Gatherers' Marketing Cooperative; - Bocana, Ilog

Implementing Organization:

Bocana Small Fishermen and Fry Gatherers' Marketing Cooperative, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$20,000

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$19,000

Beneficiaries:

77 small fishermen households





Description:

The marginal fishermen and fry gatherers in Bocana formed a cooperative to market their produce. This Cooperative used the CIDA-NRDF funding to buy necessary equipment and to provide production loans to members. Cooperative seminars and training are being organized and membership is being encouraged.

Progress To Date:

The fry gathering season started in March and the Cooperative is now actively marketing the milkfish and prawn fry. Previously, when marketing was carried out through middlemen, the fry gatherers received approximately C\$2.00 per thousand fries. They are now receiving C\$4.00 - C\$5.00 per thousand fries. This has had a definite impact on the lives of the marginal fishermen.

4. Project Name and Location:

Duck Raising Project; - Bago City

Implementing Organization:

Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.  
(NORFI)

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$9,347

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$8.875

Beneficiaries:

100 poor households where one family member is handicapped.

Description:

The Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. (NORFI) provides community based vocational rehabilitation services to handicapped persons. The





beneficiaries of this project are disabled persons and their families. Training seminars and workshops on duck raising are conducted before inputs are provided. A cooperative will be formed for marketing as the project evolves.

Progress To Date:

The first 25 beneficiaries were selected and received training. They were then provided with a production kit which included 24 laying ducks and other necessary materials and equipment. Within the first several months of operation, egg production has started at a rate of 15 per day per beneficiary. Guaranteed markets have been secured for all beneficiaries and the targetted family income has been achieved. The second batch of 25 beneficiaries is now being selected for training and the project is continuing as intended in the implementation plan.

5. Project Name and Location:

Small Scale Integrated Coconut Processing Plant; -  
Toboso

Implementing Organization:

Filipinas Foundation, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$105,144

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$96,377

Beneficiaries:

Initially, 90 small coconut farmers, with an additional 600 coconut farmers targetted for inclusion in the program within one year.

Description:

The Filipinas Foundation, Inc. has developed a small scale coconut processing plant. This plant and technology is being provided to the Toboso Coconut





Farmers' Marketing Cooperative. The plant will process 5,000 coconuts per day producing edible oil, laundry soap, charcoal, vinegar and animal feeds. All these products will be sold in the local community at a rate lower than normal market price. The farmers will be paid the going market price or higher for their coconuts, thereby providing stable income not previously available. The plant will employ approximately 25 persons on a full time basis aside from improving the income of the farmers.

Progress To Date:

The building housing the plant is near completion and the equipment has been ordered. Installation will begin by the middle of May with start-up of operation in mid June. In the meantime members have been undergoing cooperative training. The Cooperative currently has a membership of 40 farmers with another 50 applications in process. By mid 1988, the Cooperative expects to expand to approximately 700 farmer members.

6. Project Name and Location:

Irrigation for Diversification; - Murcia

Implementing Organization:

Chito Foundation, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$10,641

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$10,109

Beneficiaries:

216 small farmer beneficiaries (includes family members) who have been recipients of a land transfer program.





Description:

The owner of a hacienda (sugar plantation) in Murcia has permanently transferred a portion of his land to his farm laborers with the assistance of Chito Foundation, Inc. The CIDA-NRDF funds are being used to construct a dam and irrigation canal that will provide water for the transferred land. This irrigation system will increase the productivity and income of the small farmers. The Chito Foundation, Inc. is also providing organizational and skills training for the beneficiaries.

Progress To Date:

The irrigation canal is still under construction and is targetted for completion by June 1987.

7. Project Name and Location:

Livelihood Assistance to Sugar Workers, Small Farmers and Marginal Fishermen of San Carlos City; - San Carlos City

Implementing Organization:

J. F. Ledesma Foundation, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$196,356

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$114,824

Beneficiaries:

680 households including marginal farmers, displaced sugar workers, marginal fishermen and urban poor.

Description:

The J. F. Ledesma Foundation, Inc. provides training for technical skills, management, community and cooperative organizing as well as assistance for production inputs. The components of this project



include rice production, fish capture, hog fattening and breeding, cattle fattening, goat raising, micro-enterprise and dressmaking/sewing. The beneficiaries are also organized into community cooperatives which will eventually take over the management of the projects.

Progress To Date:

The separate components of the project are in various stages of progress, the most active being micro-enterprise. Those beneficiaries have received training and production loans and have begun repaying their loans. The small farmers have received training and are waiting for the rain to begin planting. The training centre is near completion with seminars and workshops scheduled to begin by June 1987. The Foundation staff are now projecting that at the present rate, they will be able to assist more than 1,000 households as compared to the original projection of 680 households.

8. Project Name and Location:

Livelihood Assisted Project of Stall Holders in the People's Market; - Bacolod City

Implementing Organization:

First Farmers Human Development Foundation, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$205,020

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$133,333

Beneficiaries:

705 small market stall holders

Description:

The First Farmers Human Development Foundation, Inc. is assisting the newly formed United People's Market





Vendors Association by providing training in community organization, cooperative management, controllership and management. After completing the training, the vendors are provided with soft term loans for operating capital. The project management will eventually be turned over to the Market Vendors Association.

Progress To Date:

The training seminars have started and are continuing. So far, 78 stall holders have received loans for operating capital with an additional 100 loans being processed. Screening of the loan applications is being done by a committee formed by the vendors themselves. Their activity in the management of the project is increasing as further training takes place.

9. Project Name and Location:

Income Generating Project for Displaced Sugar Workers and Out-of-School Youth; - Granada., Bacolod City

Implementing Organization:

Bacolod Boys' Home

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$82,916

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$25,492

Beneficiaries:

640 out-of-school youth and unemployed sugar workers.

Description:

Bacolod Boys' Home provides a home and vocational training for orphans and out-of-school youth, as well as income generating projects for the surrounding community made up mostly of sugar workers. This community was one of those involved in the Star of Hope





project of In-Hand Negros, Inc. and is currently participating in the Toy Production Project. The current project will provide new training and production facilities for carpentry, bamboo handicraft and toy production, all of which will provide employment for beneficiaries.

Progress To Date:

The new building construction is in progress and equipment has been ordered. The toy making is on-going with existing facilities. The completion of the new facilities will allow for full participation of the targetted number of beneficiaries, not only in toy making, but also in handicraft production.

10. Project Name and Location:

INCOME (Vocational Skills Training With Productivity); -  
Bacolod City

Implementing Organization:

Volunteers For The Rehabilitation of The Handicapped  
And Disabled, Inc. (VRHD).

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$24,273

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$12,137

Beneficiaries:

360 handicapped youth from poor families.

Description:

The Volunteers for the Rehabilitation of The Handicapped and Disabled, Inc. is providing training in various vocational skills for the handicapped. Upon completion of training, the beneficiary can apply for a loan for a home-based enterprise.



Progress To Date:

Training began on March 2 for 50 beneficiaries in hand knitting, machine knitting, crochet and dressmaking. These beneficiaries will complete the training by the middle of May and be ready to start earning an income by that time. In May, courses in carpentry and silk screening will begin.

11. Project Name and Location:

Revolving Credit Fund For Small Farmers; - Bago City, Pulupandan, Pontevedra and San Enrique

Implementing Organization:

Diocesan Socio-Economic Commission

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$62,514

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$59,388

Beneficiaries:

200 small farmers

Description:

This project is providing 200 small rice farmers, beneficiaries of the Land Reform Program, with loans for the purchase of agricultural inputs and livestock. These farmers and their families, who are living in four different communities, will receive consciousness-raising, leadership and technical training organized by the Socio-Economic Commission of the Catholic Church. Loan repayments will be used to establish community loan funds to finance future production needs and to enable the Church to set up similar programs in other communities.





Progress To Date:

The consciousness raising, leadership and technical training seminars have been conducted by the Socio-Economic Commission of the Catholic Church. The farmers have formed cohesive groups in their communities and are participating in decision making. Over 50% of the targetted beneficiaries have now received credit for production inputs for the present planting season, or for the purchase of livestock.

12. Project Name and Location:

Kabankalan Upland Development Program; - 17 Upland Communities in Kabankalan.

Implementing Organization:

Kabankalan Multi-Sectoral Municipal Development Council.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$209,694

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$48,051

Beneficiaries:

1,525 marginal upland farmers, displaced sugar workers and micro-entrepreneurs.

Description:

This project, targetted towards Kabankalan's upland communities, has two basic components: agro-forestry assistance and micro-enterprise development. Under the first component, small family land plots will be provided for food, cash crops and livestock production; small feeder roads and access trails will be constructed, and tree seed and seedling production will be developed. The second component will assist with the development of home-based food-processing industries, and will provide access to post-harvest facilities such as storage units, rice mills and corn shellers.





Progress To Date:

The organizational and technical training programs for beneficiaries have been started and are on-going. The land based income generating components have been delayed by the drought.

13. Project Name and Location:

The La Carlota Milling District Integrated Rural Development Program; - La Carlota, La Castellana and Pontevedra.

Implementing Organization:

Buasdamlag, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$583,423

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$367,987

Beneficiaries:

4,260 landless sugar workers

Description:

This extensive multi-faceted program will focus on agricultural production, livestock production and communities organization for landless sugar workers in three municipalities. Beneficiaries choose whether they would rather be involved in crop production or animal husbandry. Those choosing the former receive a free-of-charge two-year land use contract plus agricultural input loans for the production of rice, corn, mongo, peanuts, rootcrops and ramie. Those choosing the latter are given cattle or pigs to fatten or breed, keeping all the income which is generated thereby. Appropriate training is provided to the beneficiaries in all cases.



Progress To Date:

The community organizing training component has started. The cattle fattening and other livestock projects are also well under way. Land based crop production projects are waiting for the rain to begin.

14. Project Name and Location:

St. Francis Xavier Integrated Socio-Economic Development Program; - Kabankalan.

Implementing Organization:

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Approved CIDA Contribution

C\$214,247

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$16,733

Beneficiaries:

1,954 displaced sugar workers, marginal farmers and fishermen, and micro-entrepreneurs.

Description:

This project is focused on 28 Basic Christian Communities (BCC's) which the Catholic Church has organized in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Kabankalan. The project aims to organize these BCC's into a federation, and will establish a beneficiary support fund to assist the 1,954 BCC members gain access to land; undertake agro-forestry, livestock and micro-enterprise projects; and set up post-harvest facilities. A beneficiary education fund will also be established.

Progress To Date:

Organizational and community development training has started. Land based projects are delayed until the rainy season begins.





15. Project Name and Location:

Dancalan Parish Carabao Dispersal Program; - Ilog.

Implementing Organization:

Parish of Dancalan

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$13,333

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$12,666

Beneficiaries

40 small farmers

Description:

This project entails the provision, on a loan basis, of carabao (water buffalo) and plows to 40 small farmers, to assist them with farm work. The recipients will be selected by a committee composed of the parish priest and lay leaders from different communities. As loans are repaid, a revolving fund will be established to provide carabaos to more beneficiaries.

Progress To Date:

Farmers have been given training and canvassing to buy carabaos has begun.

16. Project Name and Location:

Negros Permanent Land Sharing For Food and  
Diversification Assistance Program; - various  
locations throughout Negros Occidental.

Implementing Organization:

Negros Economic Development Foundation (NEDF)

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$232,953





CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date

C\$86,469

Beneficiaries

1,550 landless sugar workers.

Description:

This project will entail the permanent land transfer of at least 725 hectares (approx 1,600 acres) to 1,550 or more sugar workers and their families. These sugar workers will also be given agricultural input loans, education and training, and marketing assistance. This program should serve as one model for voluntary, comprehensive land reform in Negros.

Progress To Date:

Project just started. The first report is due by the end of June.

17. Project Name and Location:

Hinigaran Poverty-Focused Development Program; -  
Hinigaran.

Implementing Organization:

Hinigaran Municipal Development Council

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$228,680

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$30,945

Beneficiaries:

1,400 displaced sugar workers, marginal fishermen, marginal farmers and small vendors.



Description:

This is a comprehensive integrated development program for the poor of Hinigaran. Aside from technical training, education will include community organizing skills and capacity building so that the targetted groups will be able to implement their own socio-economic development programs. A revolving fund will provide the capital requirements for income generating activities such as farming , fishing and marketing.

Progress To Date:

Technical and organizational training activities are on-going. The revolving credit for urban poor groups is also well under way. Land based projects are delayed until the rain begins.

18. Project Name and Location:

Pontevedra Integrated and Poverty-Focused Development Program; - Pontevedra, Negros Occidental

Implementing Organization:

Pontevedra Municipal Development Council

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$229,493

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$16,600

Beneficiaries:

1,696 displaced sugar workers, marginal farmers and marginal fishermen.

Description:

This is an integrated program by the Municipal Development Council to deliver services to the poor of the community. Components of the program include community organizing and project management training,





negotiating for access to land, basic social services, technology training for improved crop/livestock production, revolving credit for production and marketing assistance. The various target groups will be organized into cooperatives with the eventual formation of a federation which will coordinate the services now being provided by the Council.

Progress To Date:

The first release for this project was given only recently. The first progress report is due by the end of June.

19. Project Name and Location:

Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation, Inc. Nursery and Educational Center; - Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Implementing Organization:

Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation, Inc.

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$53,043

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$48,311

Beneficiaries:

Undetermined number of upland communities throughout the province.

Description:

A nursery and education center will be established in Bacolod City. The nursery will be established to produce seedlings of various tree species for future distribution to communities throughout the province. An education center will provide information regarding forest conservation and reforestation. Seminars will also be held in different communities to encourage reforestation projects.



Progress To Date:

Educational equipment is being purchased. Conservation awareness programs are being given in different communities. The building for the nursery will begin soon.

20. Project Name and Location:

Small Farmers Assistance Project; - Pahanocoy, Bacolod City

Implementing Organization:

Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. (ARBA)-  
Pahanocoy Chapter

Approved CIDA Contribution:

C\$20,629

CIDA Funds Disbursed To Date:

C\$11,803

Beneficiaries:

15 small farmers

Description:

The members of this organization are small farmers who are recipients of a previous land reform program but have remained marginal because of lack of support services. This project will provide training as well as credit for production inputs to improve productivity. A capital build up fund will be used for future projects which include the formation of a marketing cooperative.

Progress To Date:

The small farmers are receiving organizational training. They have purchased working animals and agricultural inputs to loan to members. Planting will start when the rainy season begins.

Note: All Canadian dollar figures listed in the above report are based on an exchange rate of Philippine Pesos 15 = Canadian \$1.00.





# NEGROS REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

## LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS

As of May 25, 1987

	Proponent (Project)	Approved Amount	Disbursed to Date	No. of Bene- ficiaries
1)	Buasdamlag, Inc.	P 8,751,350.00	P 5,519,797.50	4,260 *
2)	Hinigaran Municipal Dev't. Council	3,430,200.00	464,170.00	1,400 *
3)	Pontevedra Municipal Dev't. Council	3,442,400.00	248,995.00	1,696 *
4)	St. Francis Xavier Parish- Kabankalan	3,213,700.00	250,990.00	1,954 *
5)	Kabankalan Municipal Dev't. Council	3,145,414.00	720,765.00	1,525 *
6)	First Farmers Human Dev't. Foundation (United People's Market Vendors Assoc.)	3,075,300.00	2,000,000.00	705 *
7)	J.F. Ledesma Foundation	2,945,334.00	1,722,356.62	680 *
8)	In-Hand Negros (Star of Hope)	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	2,000
9)	Filipinas Foundation, Inc. (Toboso Coconut Farmers Coop.)	1,577,161.00	1,445,653.00	100 *
10)	Bacolod Boys' Home	1,243,742.00	382,375.00	640
11)	In-Hand Negros (Toy Production)	1,000,000.00	950,000.00	3,900
12)	Diocesan Socio-Economic Commission	937,712.00	890,826.48	200 *
13)	Volunteers for Rehabilitation of the Handicapped and the Disabled	364,100.00	182,050.00	360
14)	Bocana Small Fishermen & Fry Gatherers Cooperative Mktg.	300,000.00	285,000.00	77 *
15)	Dancalan Parish	200,000.00	190,000.00	40 *
16)	CHITO Foundation	159,620.00	151,639.00	400
17)	Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.	140,140.00	133,133.00	100 *
18)	Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association	309,430.00	177,045.00	15 *
19)	Negros Forest & Ecological Foundation	795,650.90	724,655.70	-
20)	Negros Economic Development Foundation (Permanent Land Sharing)	3,494,292.00	1,297,035.00	1,550 *
	T O T A L	P40,525,545.90 =====	P 19,736,486.30 =====	21,602 =====

\* Households



